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Favorable reports on health conditions are received from all districts of the island.

December 26 the French steamship *Floride*, from Coruña, via the Canary Islands, arrived at this port with 1 case of smallpox in the steerage. All Habana passengers were removed with the patient and isolated at Mariel quarantine, after vaccination. The crew with passengers in transit for New Orleans were vaccinated and their effects disinfected by the service. The vessel was fumigated and all prophylactic measures prescribed in the regulations were carried out under the supervision of this office. December 28, the *Floride* departed for New Orleans and other American ports.

Yellow fever at San Luis, Santiago Province.

Doctor Amesse further reports:

January 2. Sanitary department confirms 1 death and 1 new case yellow fever at San Luis, 20 miles north of Santiago de Cuba.

The chief quarantine officer at San Juan, Porto Rico, was informed by the bureau of the presence of yellow fever in Santiago Province.

Report from Santiago—Inspection of vessels—House inspection.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Wilson reports, December 23:

Week ended December 19. Bills of health were issued to 6 vessels bound for the United States and its dependencies. No quarantinable disease was reported.

The sanitary department made 3,849 house inspections during the week, finding larvæ in 7.

ECUADOR.

*Reports from Guayaquil—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—
Plague and yellow fever—Plague at Milagro.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Wightman reports, December 3 and 10, through Passed Assistant Lloyd:

Two weeks ended November 14.

Bills of health were issued to 6 steamships, with an aggregate personnel of 495 members of crews, 115 cabin and 116 steerage passengers. All these steamships were fumigated.

During the week ended November 7 no death from quarantinable disease was recorded for Guayaquil. During that ended November 14, 1 death occurred from yellow fever and 2 deaths from plague.

There has been no death from smallpox since September 26, 1908, and the last case left the lazaretto November 3, 1908, since which date the lazaretto has been closed.

During the two weeks ended November 28, bills of health were issued to 3 steamships, 2 of which were fumigated. They carried an aggregate personnel of 272 members of crews, 51 cabin and 26 steerage passengers.

During the week ended November 21, 1 death from plague was recorded at Guayaquil. No other death from quarantinable disease occurred in that week.

During the week ended November 28, 2 deaths from yellow fever and 1 death from plague were recorded.

Plague has appeared in Milagro, a small railroad town about 25 miles from Guayaquil. The first case was recognized November 17, and

from that time to the end of the month 11 cases, with 6 deaths, were recorded.

A medical officer of the special commission on sanitation (now the public health service of Ecuador) was sent to Milagro with assistants to institute sanitary measures, and the work is continued.

EGYPT.

Report from Alexandria—History of plague in Egypt, 1899–1908—Transmission of plague by rats—Sanitary measures enforced in cities.

Consul Birch reports, December 10:

The present outbreak of plague in Egypt is now running out its tenth year. The first cases were reported in 1899 and in that year there were 93 cases of plague with 45 deaths, all in Alexandria. The next year the number of new cases in Alexandria decreased to 36 and the center of infection shifted to Port Said, where 90 cases were treated. In 1901 Alexandria again reported the bulk of plague cases, and from that time to the present, with the exception of the years 1904 and 1906, when bubonic epidemics occurred in the district of Samalout, the city of Alexandria has been the principal plague spot in Egypt.

During the 9 years from 1899 to 1907, inclusive, there have been 4,213 cases of plague in all Egypt, of which 2,729 resulted in death. Of these 4,213 cases, 1,253 were reported last year. The plague figures for 1908 will show even a greater number of cases for all Egypt, though probably less for Alexandria.

The chief sanitary inspector of the Alexandria office of the Conseil Sanitaire, Maritime, et Quarantenaire d'Egypte, informs the consulate that the present tendency of the disease is to attack the small villages of the interior and to lessen its activity in the larger cities. This is due to the almost total absence of ordinary sanitary precautions in the interior in contradistinction to the immediate and extreme measures applied to new cases in the cities. In Alexandria the outbreak is confined to the native and poorer Greek quarters, and seldom is a case reported from the cleaner European sections.

The chief sanitary inspector, in discussing the causes of bubonic plague in Egypt, expressed the belief that contagion was in the majority of instances transmitted through actual contact with rats. Close observation had shown that infection through bites of rat fleas was to a lesser degree the cause of plague in Egypt than in India or elsewhere. Speaking as to the possibility of plague being carried into the United States by raw cotton, he said he did not think this probable, as the rat does not house itself in cotton bales. Hides and skins would be more likely to carry the rat than bales of cotton.

TABLE.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Year.	Cases.	Deaths.
1899	93	45	1905	127	87
1900	36	25	1906	99	61
1901	52	26	1907	105	89
1902	101	52	Total	850	538
1903	129	83			
1904	108	70			